

Those who know Your name will place their trust in You always, because You never forsake those who seek You and seek Your ways. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THANKING INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCING THE MARCH OF FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one of my life goals in public service has been to promote democracy and freedom throughout the world. A leading proponent of this goal is the International Republican Institute, widely revered as IRI. Founded in 1983, this visionary nonprofit organization responded to President Ronald Reagan's call in 1982 that "we must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings."

IRI has advanced the march of freedom by teaching nations recovering from Communist and authoritarian totalitarian regimes how to self-govern through the rule of law. IRI adheres to the fundamental American principles of individual freedom, equal opportunity, and entrepreneurial spirit that foster economic development.

I have seen IRI's success firsthand in Bulgaria, as I joined a delegation to observe their first free elections since victory in the Cold War. They have democracy efforts in 56 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, China, Slovakia, and Russia.

I want to personally thank IRI's president, George A. Folsom, for his commitment to bringing the hope of freedom to people all over the world.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS OUTSOURCING RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to jobs and the economy, this administration has outsourced its responsibility.

The Department of Labor has just given us proof. February unemployment figures are grim and include a stunning revelation: the private sector actually lost jobs last month. The meager 21,000 jobs, new jobs, all came from local and State government. This is not economic recovery; it is an economic crisis. Long-term unemployment is at its highest level in 20 years. The unemployment rate among teens is a staggering 37 percent. The Community Service Society says in some cities the unemployment rate among black men is 50 percent.

The administration has turned its back on average Americans. We must pass extended unemployment benefits. An administration that does not care about the average American is an administration that has outsourced its leadership. It has gone somewhere. We need to get it back.

ECONOMIC JOBS AND GROWTH PLAN IS WORKING FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we have some great challenges before our country in today's world; and one of them, of course, is moving our economy forward.

I am pleased to report to the House that the Economic Jobs and Growth Plan that was signed into law by President Bush in May of last year is working. We have seen some real benefits as a result of that Jobs and Economic Growth Plan, plans that cut taxes for every American, eliminated the marriage tax penalty, doubled the child tax credit, and also provided incentives for investment.

As a result of the President's plan that was passed into law by this Congress, we have seen a generation of well over 300,000 new jobs just in the last few months. I would also report that as a result of the bonus depreciation, the extra 50 percent that businesses can use for deducting the cost of buying a company car or an office computer or telecommunications equipment, a machine tool that, as a result of that bonus depreciation, we have now seen the highest level ever of investment by the private sector, by business, and capital assets, cars and trucks, machine tools, computers. When we encourage a business to buy a new com-

pany car, to buy a machine tool, to buy telecommunications equipment, to buy other types of equipment, that creates jobs.

The President's plan is working.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WEEK

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing a Liz Claiborne, very attractive, very glamorous scarf which is being used and is being handed out to Members of Congress, especially women Members of Congress this week, as we call attention to Violence Against Women and Stop Violence Against Women Week. The bipartisan Women's Caucus and the Hispanic Caucus are kicking off this event this week with a reception later on.

The point is to wear something beautiful in order to draw attention to a very ugly phenomenon in our country and around the world, and that is violence against women, very closely related to child abuse. One way to stop child abuse is to focus more on violence against women themselves. We have a bill, the Violence Against Women Act, of course, which means that Congress itself regards this as a major phenomenon in our society.

Mr. Speaker, let us use this entire week to call attention to it and to eliminate it once and for all from the United States of America and from the world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 8, 2004 at 3:15 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a report on implementation of PL 107-228 concerning Russian Debt Reduction for Nonproliferation.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L.
Clerk of the House.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON AUTHORITY FOR RUSSIAN FEDERATION DEBT REDUCTION FOR NONPROLIFERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-171)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message